



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, DC 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

08/942,415 10/16/97 KURODA

Y 971154

ARMSTRONG WESTERMAN HATTORI  
MCLELAND & NAUGHTON  
1725 K STREET NW  
SUITE 1000  
WASHINGTON DC 20006

LM31/0804

EXAMINER

WALLERSON, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2722

DATE MAILED:

08/04/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/942,415

Applicant(s)

Yoshiharu Kuroda et al

Examiner

Mark Wallerson

Group Art Unit

2722

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☒ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☒ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3 and 6
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2722

**Part III DETAILED ACTION**

**Notice to Applicant(s)**

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-13 are pending.

***Priority***

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

3. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statements dated 2/17/98 and 12/15/98 have been considered by the Examiner and is attached to this Office Action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima et. al. (Kojima) (U. S. 5,412,490) in view of Kaneko et. al. (Kaneko) (U. S. 5,822,075).

Art Unit: 2722

With respect to claims 1, 6, and 11, Kojima discloses a printing unit provided with an image reading unit comprising a recorded paper discharge tray (21, figure 3) located at the top of the unit; a document sheet supply tray (6) located below the recorded paper discharge tray; a document sheet outlet tray (7) located below the document sheet supply tray; a paper cassette (13) (which reads on a multi-purpose tray) located below the document sheet outlet tray; a scanning unit (5) for transporting the document sheet from the document sheet supply tray to the document sheet outlet tray; a recording part (image forming unit) (15) that transports the recording sheet from the multi-purpose tray to the recording sheet discharge tray, with the multi-purpose tray, recorded paper discharge tray, document sheet supply and discharge trays being confined within a width of the device if view from the left of figure 3.

Kojima differs from claims 1 and 6 in that he does not disclose a recording sheet supply tray located below the multi-purpose tray for holding stacked recording sheets which are supplied one at a time. Kaneko discloses an image processing system comprising a sheet stacking unit (205) (which reads on a recording sheet supply part), for holding stacked recording sheets, and located below a sheet supply tray (204) (which reads on the multi-purpose tray). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kojima wherein a recording a recording supply tray would have been installed below a multi-purpose tray. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kojima by the teaching of Kaneko in order to be able to select different sheets as taught by Kaneko in column 5, lines 13-17).

Art Unit: 2722

With respect to claims 2 and 7, Kojima discloses the multi-purpose tray (13) connected horizontally so that a substantially space is between the multi-purpose tray and the document sheet outlet tray (7).

With respect to claims 3 and 8, Kaneko discloses that the recording supply sheet comprises a cassette (column 5, lines 15-16) holding recording sheets in a stacked state (column 2, lines 55-56). It is also obvious that the cassettes would have to be removed from the housing to insert sheets into them.

With regard to claim 12, Kojima discloses that the multi-purpose tray (13) defines the bottom of the recording device (15).

6. Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima in view of Kaneko as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Sakaue (EUR 0 673 146 A2).

Kojima and Kaneko differ from claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 13 in that they do not clearly disclose that the operation of the image recording device and paper cassette insertion/removal actions are performed by a user facing at right angles to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction. Sakaue discloses an image processor in which operation of the image recording device and paper cassette insertion/removal actions are performed by a user facing at right angles to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction (figure 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

Art Unit: 2722

invention to have modified the device of Kojima as modified wherein paper cassette insertion/removal actions would be performed by a user facing at right angles to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the device of Kojima as modified in order to achieve ease of use.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Wallerson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8581.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications intended for entry)

(703) 308-9589 (for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Art Unit: 2722

Crystal Park Two

2121 Crystal Drive

Arlington. VA.

Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

**MARK WALLERSON**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**



Mark Wallerson



**EDWARD COLES, SR.**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
Art Unit 2722